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Leominster and Wigmore Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1947

The Orphans' Printing Press Ltd., Leominster.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Clerks	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT (resigned on 18th January, 1947) MISS S. DENSHAM (appointed on 17th February, 1947)
Sanitary Inspector	G. E. BULL, M.S.I.S., C.R. San. I. (Telephone: Kingsland 11)

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To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1947, which will also be my last report.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff and members of the Council for their kind co-operation and friendliness during my ten years of office.

Mr. Bull, your Sanitary Inspector, has held office for the whole of this period and longer. I must draw your attention to his unsparing work on behalf of the district as a whole, during this time.

There are two problems which require solution in the near future.

Firstly, the matter of water supplies. The district is made up of three different geological forms, whose water bearing qualities are themselves very different. The siting of centres of population are at present conditioned by the presence of water. A satisfactory long term housing scheme is therefore dependent on a proper distribution of water. Furthermore, certain piped supplies are unsatisfactory, and in the case of Leintwardine, there is a definite danger to the population, a fact pointed out to you in the years 1938 and 1939.

An economical solution of the Kingsland sewage problem is also required since the destruction of the Lugg weir.

H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	94,101
Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to the Rate Books	3,105
Rateable Value	£46,877
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£191 4 2

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ...	19.0
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 live and still births)	44.3
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated resident population)	12.8
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	56.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths during 1947 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947:

Live Birth Rate	20.5
Death Rate	12.0
Infantile Mortality Rate	41.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratary facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the country districts.

Child Welfare Centre: In the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital, every Friday, 2—4 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic: Organised on a voluntary basis and held at the Hospital annexe.

The County schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Inlant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. G. E. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following Statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations. The explanatory comments are also his.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The situation during the year was very much as in previous years. Considering the dry summer the water shortage was not so acute as might have been expected, due no doubt to the heavy snowfall in the early part of the year.

WATER SAMPLING

35 samples of water were taken and sent to the Laboratory with the following results: 24 satisfactory and 11 unsatisfactory. The major part of the district is served by wells, only a few parishes being favoured with a piped supply.

WIGMORE	62 houses on standpipes
ADFORTON	25 houses on standpipe
BRAMPTON BRYAN ...	24 houses and School on main supply
	4 houses on standpipe
LEINTWARDINE	122 houses and School Canteen on mains
Kinton Supply	10 houses on standpipes
Whitton Supply	11 houses on standpipe
Pump House	7 houses on pump outside Pump House

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Nothing of importance occurred during the year. With the exception of the parishes served by sewers, the disposal of sewage is effected through septic tanks or by burial in earth.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution was reported during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

House to house collection throughout the district is now carried out by the Local Authority and this is working very satisfactorily.

DISINFECTION ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

50 inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease and disinfection was carried out at 31 houses and one School.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders, including the Factories Acts, and under enactments, governing meat and foods.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

INSPECTIONS UNDER	Number	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	549	111	4	94
Factories	43	3	—	3
Milk and Dairies Orders	317	17	—	13
Bakehouses	16	2	—	2
Food Premises	175	2	—	2
Schools	8	1	—	1
Water Supplies	35	11	—	11
Infectious diseases	50	—	—	—
Knackers' Yard	12	1	—	1
Hop-pickers' Quarters	18	3	—	3
TOTAL ...	1,223	151	4	130

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	151
Statutory	4

DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out:

Roofs	37	Pantries provided	3
Dampness	8	Stairs repaired	4
Floors	12	Windows repaired ...	13
Drains	19	Baths fitted	4
Wells	24	Cesspools constructed ...	10
New sinks fitted	11	Conversion of Privies ...	8
Spoutings repaired ...	13	Wash Coppers repaired ...	6
Plasterings repaired ...	23	Chimneys repaired ...	13
Dangerous walls	10	W.C.s provided	6
Cooking accommodation ...	7	W.C.s repaired	3

FACTORIES

43 inspections have been made at the factories with and without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small, generally only employing two or three persons. Three informal notices were served for minor defects. On the whole, the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	11	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	30	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	2	—	—
TOTAL	21	43	3	—

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act, (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	2	—

CAMPING SITES

There are no registered camping sites in the district. Some camps were used by organised parties to help with the harvest. They were inspected and no nuisance occurred. Where camping does occur, it is only for a short period.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts 184
   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 549
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation 111

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices:—

   (a) By owners 4
   (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

VAN DWELLINGS

There are several dwellings in the district. They are located in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and are of the permanent type having their own water supply and drainage. They are mostly overcrowded on present standards and require dealing with as soon as possible.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Regular inspections were made at the various food shops in the district. Two notices were served for limewashing, and these were complied with.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Tinned	Meat	8 lbs.	Bacon	7 lbs.
,,	Vegetables ...	42 lbs.	Butter	14 lbs.
,,	Milk	110 lbs.	Cheese	20 lbs.
,,	Fruit	14 lbs.	Dried Fruit	30 lbs.
,,	Jam	4 lbs.	Tea	½ lb.
,,	Fish	12 lbs.	Fish	140 lbs.
,,	Soup	7 lbs.	Sweets	14 lbs.
,,	Bacon	19 lbs.	Sausage	10 lbs.
,,	Syrup	2 lbs.	Vegetables	95 lbs.

Central slaughtering is carried out in the Borough of Leominster Slaughter House. For this reason no butcher's meat was condemned in this district.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The occurrence of only three cases of infantile paralysis in the district corresponds to the general incidence throughout the County.

A prolonged outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred in the Bodenham district. It was unusual in character, the first case being notified in December, 1946 and the last case in October, 1947. Apart from three cases occurring in one family and two cases occurring in three other families, the source of the infection was not traced, search being made at Bodenham School and amongst milk producers, etcetera. It was noteworthy, however, that twenty cases occurred amongst persons under the age of 21, three over the age of 21 and that fourteen of the children were attending Bodenham School.

A number of cases occurred at the same time in Wellington and Marden in the Hereford Rural District and two cases occurred at the R.A.F. Station at Credenhill, one of which was associated with the first case at Bodenham.

Swabs were taken in the majority of cases and all beta-haemolytic streptococci were found to be of the Lancefeld Group A, Type 2.

From a study of cases occurring within the family, it appears that the incubation period is very long indeed. This is presumably the reason why it is not possible to indicate the mode of spread.

The collection of detail included in this report was possible owing to the hard work of your Sanitary Inspector.

Two cases of diphtheria occurred, one in a child of nine years who had not been immunised, and the other in a youth of 18, staying in the district on holiday.

A severe outbreak of Bornholm Disease occurred in the district. This disease is something of a rarity, is highly infectious and the incubation period appears to be 5—6 days.

The disease is extremely uncomfortable, not to say painful. It lasts from 3—4 days, is sometimes folowed by a relapse, and recovery is complete. Complications are unknown.

Twenty-five cases were known to have occurred in the village of Orleton. The oldest person known to be affected was 28, and the youngest four years. The first case occurred on the 11th July and the last case on the 25th July.

Two sporadic cases were seen in Kingsland and one case was heard of in Ludlow. The epidemic however remained strictly localised. The mode of conveyance of the infection is not known.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR
ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient														
	0 — 1	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 6	6 — 7	7 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 30	30 — 40	Over 40	Unknown	TOTAL
Measles ...	—	3	9	2	3	6	12	16	17	13	3	1	3	2	90
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	4	4	3	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	21
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	7	4	2	2	—	1	—	22
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	1	1	3	—	11
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1947 is indicated in the table below:

Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age		Total under 15
Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group	Number
323	36.3%	970	67.0%	1,293

It is gratifying to notice the increase of children under five years of age who are immunised, from 216 in 1945 to to 323 in 1947, and that 127 children were immunised during the year. This increase is chiefly due to the efforts of the General Practitioners, whose co-operation is greatly appreciated.

" LOCAL " CHILDREN, aged 0—4 years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number immunised during year ...	—	26	118	113	101	38	86	98	127
Number immunised at any time ...	—	26	136	211	259	221	216	243	323

" Immunised " indicates only those children who have completed a full course of injections.

As from the 5th July, 1948, all immunisation becomes the responsibility of the Herefordshire County Council. The County Medical Officer will in future report annually on the state of immunisation of children.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1947, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 42 males and 22 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year, ten new cases were notified, five on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and five because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, and three persons left the district.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1939	23	15	38
1940	22	18	40
1941	24	22	46
1942	27	23	50
1943	39	23	62
1944	41	22	63
1945	39	25	64
1946	37	22	59
1947	39	25	64

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Cancer (all forms)	9	8	17
Diabetes	1	1	2
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries ...	26	28	54
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	7	14
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	5	5	10
Diarrhoea under two years	1	1	2
Diseases of the Digestive system ...	3	—	3
Nephritis	5	1	6
Congenital conditions (at birth) ...	4	1	5
Suicide	1	—	1
Violence (including Road Traffic Accidents) ...	4	1	5
All other causes	6	4	10